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a controller for controlling an intensity of light permitted to pass through said screen and for alternatively selectively disabling selected regions of said screen so that light cannot pass through those selected regions.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein said display comprises a helmet-mounted display, and said screen comprises a helmet visor.

24. (New) The system of claim 23, and further comprising a tracking system associated with the helmet-mounted display that monitors the movement of the head of the wearer of the display and transmits a tracking signal to the processor, the processor producing the output signal based on feedback from the tracking signal.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein said tracking system comprises an emitter fixedly mounted on a helmet of the operator and a detector disposed in spaced relation to said emitter.

26. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein said controller includes a manual override capability so that the operator can selectively manually control and select particular output images from various ones of said sensors.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 17, and 20 have been amended, and new claims 21-26 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims 1-26 is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks.

A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto in an Appendix, as required by current Office practice.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the invention, by reciting that each of the claimed vision sensors are non turret mounted immovable sensors. In contrast, the Hale et al. patent discloses sensors 1-4, which, as shown in Fig. 4 thereof, are disposed in movable fashion on the vehicle. Servo motor 60 is disclosed as permitting "major changes in the position of the detector 1" (col. 5, lines 60-65).

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Additionally, the claim now more clearly recites that the system, which superimposes the output signal on the visor, also selectively permits an operator to view actual images disposed in front of said visor. The system at issue is a "conformal" system, meaning that the system is conformal to the outside world, and the superimposed image matches 1 to 1 with the outside world view. On the other hand, the Hale et al. '394 patent is not disclosed to be a conformal system. There is no disclosure that the visor employed therein permits actual images to be passed therethrough. Rather, the operator sees, exclusively, the image generated from the sensors 1-4.

Thus, claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Hale et al. '394 patent, together with all of the dependent claims 2-21.

Additionally, claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Kershner et al. patent.

New independent claim 22 is similar, in many respects, to patentable claim 1, in that immovable vision sensors are recited, together with the capability of viewing, together, actual and superimposed images on the display screen. Also, the claim recites a controller which permits varying levels of intensity of light to be transmitted through the screen or for alternatively selectively disabling selected regions of the screen so that light cannot pass through those selected regions. Clearly, this claim is patentable over the prior art of record, as are claims 23-26, which are dependent thereon.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record, and an early notification of allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at

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the number below, should any further questions or issues need to be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald E. Stout". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" at the beginning.

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APPENDIX (VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE)

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An enhanced vision system for mobile vehicles, comprising:
an array of vision sensors fixedly mounted on the exterior of a vehicle, each sensor
comprising a non-turret mounted immovable sensor and being capable of generating
image signals;

a recording medium for storing the image signals from the array of vision sensors;

a processor for sampling the stored image signals from the recording medium and
producing an output signal therefrom;

a [helmet-mounted] display connected to receive the output signal from the
processor and [display] superimpose it on a see-through visor which also selectively
permits an operator to view actual images disposed in front of said visor; and

a tracking system associated with the [helmet-mounted] display that monitors the
movement of the head of [the wearer of the display] the operator and transmits a tracking
signal to the processor, the processor producing the output signal based on feedback from
the tracking signal.

2. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the vehicle is an aircraft, and
wherein the array of vision sensors is mounted close to the cockpit area such that the
image signals originate from a location proximate the wearer of the [helmet-mounted]
display.

17. (Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the one other sensor generates a
real-time map signal that is combined by the processor into the output signal and
displayed on the [helmet-mounted] display outside an image produced by the array of
vision sensors.

20. (Amended) The system of claim 1, [wherein] and further including a manual
input device to the processor, wherein the output signal may be manually disabled in
select areas on the helmet-mounted display.